



Sheriff Frankie Springfield

Webster County Sheriff

Frankie Springfield began his law enforcement career in 1994. Springfield served as deputy sheriff for nine years, with the past three years as chief deputy. During this time he attended the Department of Criminal Justice Training to earn his certification. Springfield was elected sheriff in November 2002. With his wife, Rachael, and 7-year-old daughter, Kaylee, the Springfields make their home in Dixon.

WHAT INNOVATIONS OR PLANS HAVE YOU MADE SINCE BEING ELECTED SHERIFF OF WEBSTER COUNTY?

When I took office in 2003, one of the things I wanted to implement for my department was to have 24-7 policing service. For many years an officer was not actually on duty, but was only on call for emergencies. Working closely with our fiscal court we have been able to acquire another full-time officer, which enables us to have around the clock coverage for our county. It is very important for citizens to see patrol officers out patrolling, especially late at night and in early morning hours during school traffic. In 2010, we were able to add a sixth deputy to our department, by sending Webster County's first applicant to the Department of Criminal Justice Training in Richmond, and he graduated in 2011. In recent years, those officers hired were transfers from other agencies. In 2003, Webster County's Judicial Center was completed. I was found in charge of hiring eight security guards to man video-surveillance cameras and metal

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detectors along with providing court security. Although those officers are certified, their powers are limited to the judicial center, however, they are allowed to transport prisoners. This is a great help to my department because it eliminates the need to take deputies' time from their duties.

My department has acquired two SUV Ford Explorers for patrolling rural areas in our county. I have updated needed equipment for officers by applying and being granted state and federal grants to purchase these items.

I also have updated our tax program. We have gone from book work to computer. This has made a tremendous difference in tax collection. This is faster and more accurate for my clerks and for the general public who come in to pay. I also have the ability to receive tax payments with credit cards, which the taxpayers are enjoying.

When I took office as sheriff, we had a small department of myself, two office clerks and four deputies, a total of seven. As of this date, (including security guards)

I have a total of 17 personnel. I am honored to have a well-trained staff to serve the residents of my county.

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MOST REWARDING AND MOST CHALLENGING FACETS OF BEING SHERIFF IN YOUR COUNTY?

The most rewarding part is protecting and serving the citizens, knowing that you made a difference in someone's life, and that you have done your job to the best of your ability. That maybe someone in my community is safer or happier because of something I did or said to them. The most challenging has to be trying to get resources to purchase things my department needs.

WHAT ARE YOUR LONG-TERM PLANS AND GOALS FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE?

Having a small agency and a tight budget, I will continue to apply for grants for the most recent equipment that I can, to ensure officer safety. I would like to someday implement a detective unit for theft investigations and narcotics. 🇺🇸

